

In the Claims

Please substitute twice amended claim 1 for pending amended claim 1 as follows:

sub C 11
1. (Twice Amended) A method of oxygenating yeast slurry from previous fermentation comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a yeast slurry from a previous fermentation having 40 g/l yeast to 80 g/l yeast on a dry weight basis, wherein the yeast experienced anaerobic conditions in the previous fermentation;

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(b) prior to pitching the yeast in a subsequent fermentation, passing at least a portion of the yeast slurry through a membrane contactor, the contactor comprising at least one hydrophobic, microporous membrane, the membrane having a liquid side and a gas side, wherein the contactor is connected to an oxygen source, and wherein at least a portion of the yeast slurry is in proximity to the membrane on the liquid side;

(c) delivering oxygen from the oxygen source to the gas side of the membrane under conditions that cause at least a portion of the oxygen to transfer from the gas side of the membrane to the yeast slurry such that the $k_L a$ is at least 0.005 sec^{-1} .

Cancel claim 9.